

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

May 8, 2002  
City Council Chambers  
City of La Quinta  
78-495 Calle Tampico  
La Quinta, CA 92253

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The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, was called to order by Chair Michael Smith at 10:00 a.m. on May 8, 2002, in the City Council Chambers, City of La Quinta, California.

**1. Board Member Roll Call**

Present: Dr. Dan Baxley, John Benson, Gary Johnson, Leon Lesicka, Michael Smith, Brenda Soulliere, and Nancy Wright

Absent: Mary Ann Martin Andreas

**2. Staff Present**

Adnan Al-Sarabi, Ambar Amavisca, Jose Angel, Sheila Ault, Jose Cortez, Francisco Costa, Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso, Kristie Taylor Garcia, Teresa Newkirk Gonzales, Phil Gruenberg, Abdi Haile, Chris Igbinedion, Theresa Illare, Kirk Larkin, Phan Le, Kola Olatunbosun, Robert Perdue, Maribel Rodriguez, Jennie Snyder, Joan Stormo, Hilda Vasquez, Jason Voskanian, Soni Wells, Susan Wilson, Doug Wylie, and Nadim Zeywar

**3. Others Present**

Ruben Arias, California Department of Forestry and Agriculture  
Mohammad Azhar, California Department of Forestry and Agriculture – Costa Mesa  
Dee Bradshaw, Imperial Irrigation District  
Dan Cain, Salton Sea Authority  
Al Goff, U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission  
Alan Harrell, Coachella Valley Water District  
Robert Henning, Palo Verde Irrigation District  
Randy Hines, City of El Centro  
Al Kalin, Farmer  
Lavelle Lesicka, Concerned Citizen  
Michael Lopanic, Valley Sanitary District  
Lori Okun, State Water Resources Control Board - OCC  
Susan Pantell, Morongo Band  
Nicole Rothfleisch, Imperial County Farm Bureau

**4. Minutes**

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MOTION: Ms. Wright moved, Mr. Lesicka seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the Minutes be approved as submitted.

## 5. Public Forum

No one from the public chose to speak.

## 6. Uncontested Waste Discharge Requirements

### A. NPDES Permits

### B. Waste Discharge Requirements

JC	R7-2002-0099	Coachella Sanitary District, Owner/Operator, Coachella Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Industrial Wastewater Collection and Disposal Systems – Coachella, Riverside County (Updated Order)
SW	R7-2002-0118	California Bio-Mass Inc., Operator, Hardy & Hardy Investments, Land Owner, Composting Management Facility – Southeast of Thermal, Riverside County (Updated Order)
	R7-2002-0116	Change of Name and/or Ownership
	00-045	Coachella Landfill Compost Facility Indio, Riverside County
	R7-2002-0123	Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements
	93-015	Thermal Airport Sewage Disposal Basins Riverside, Riverside County

MOTION: Dr. Baxley moved, Mr. Johnson seconded, and motion carried unanimously that proposed Board Orders No. R7-2002-0099, R7-2002-0116, R7-2002-0118, and R7-2002-0123, including the errata for Board Order No. R7-2002-0118, be adopted.

## 7. Resolution No. R7-2002-0117 – Adoption of the FY 2002-2003 Emergency, Abandoned, Recalcitrant (EAR) Account Site List

Abdi Haile, Regional Board staff, gave a brief overview of circumstances that cause sites to be added to the EAR Account Site List.

MOTION: Mr. Johnson moved, Ms. Wright seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Resolution No. R7-2002-0117, including the errata, be adopted.

#### **8. Training on Legal Aspects of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)**

Lori Okun, State Water Resources Control Board, announced that the State Office of Administrative Law approved the Regional Board's Alamo River Sediment TMDL.

Ms. Okun then gave a presentation on the process of implementing TMDLs.

#### **9. Informational Update on State Board Activities**

Lori Okun reported that the State Water Resources Control Board was currently holding hearings on the IID Water Transfer.

#### **10. Regional Board Executive Officer's Report**

Phil Gruenberg reported that he has been receiving numerous questions from the Imperial Valley Agricultural Community regarding the future of TMDL adoption and implementation beyond the sediment TMDL. He stated that eutrophication has been identified as a serious problem affecting the Salton Sea and will be a recommended target goal if the Salton Sea Restoration Project moves forward. He said that he would be recommending no target goals for the Imperial Valley beyond sediment and phosphate as long as no new problems are created and existing situations do not become worse. He added that he would attend a meeting at the Imperial County Farm Bureau office on May 9, 2002.

Mr. Gruenberg reported on the status of concepts to address water issues of the Salton Sea Watershed, which he brought to the Board at a recent meeting. He stated that short-term focus would be on addressing public health hazards presented by the New River in the Calexico area.

Mr. Gruenberg reported that he would be attending the IID Water Transfer Hearings on May 13, 2002, at which time he would summarize the comments he previously submitted in writing and undergo cross-examination.

Mr. Gruenberg reported that two Mandatory Minimum Penalty ACLCs had been issued since the last Board Meeting. One ACLC was issued the City of Brawley and the other to the City of Coachella. In both cases the penalties have been paid and the hearings waived.

#### **11. Regional Board Staff Reports**

Sheila Ault, Regional Board staff, gave an update on the Region's Public Outreach Program. She reported her attendance at various events, in which she educated children and teachers on water issues in our Region and passed out literature. She believes the program has been very well received by the public.

Doug Wylie, Regional Board staff, reported that this year, in Phase 2 of the Prop 13 Grant Funding, Regional Board staff is recommending five projects for the final stage of the selection process. Three of these are in the NPS Pollution Grant Program and two are in the Watershed Protection Grant Program.

## **12. Board Member Comments**

Ms. Wright reported her attendance at the Water Education Foundation's "Managing Ground Water Basins for Water Quality and Supply Conference" in April, which she found very interesting. At the conference, she was given a video titled "High Stakes at the Salton Sea", which she recommends the Board view.

Dr. Baxley congratulated Brenda Soulliere on being profiled in the College of the Desert Fall 2002 catalog.

Mr. Benson spoke favorably of implementation of tailwater retention basins and pumpback systems in Imperial Valley.

Mr. Johnson welcomed Chair Michael Smith back to the Board Meetings.

Ms. Soulliere thanked the Board for acknowledging her profile in the COD catalog and welcomed back Michael Smith.

## **13. Regional Board Chair's Report**

Mr. Smith reported that Mr. Johnson and he attended a Chairs' Meeting in Sacramento.

Mr. Johnson reported that, at the Chairs' Meeting, each Regional Board spoke of their significant issues, however it was made clear by State Board that, at this time, nothing comes close to being as important as the IID Water Transfer.

Mr. Johnson announced that the next WQCC would be November 8-9, 2002, in San Francisco.

Mr. Smith announced that the next Board Meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2002.

## **14. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.